REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd November 1902.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 14th November says:-

The Somaliland affair.

It is reported from Somaliland that, far from succeeding with 5,000 soldiers, 50,000 will be

hardly sufficient to restore peace in that country, for it is said that the Mad Mullah can muster an army of 30 to 40 thousand, if he likes. The Boer war must have taught the English not to be confident of easy victory.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)-Police.

The Pratinidhi [Comilla] of the 8th November says that the unsatisfactory way in which the Police Commission is The Police Commission. going through its work of taking evidence will frustrate the purpose for which the Commission has been appointed. At Dacca, for instance, the Commission examined only the witnesses selected by the Assam Government, most of whom were officials, four local witnesses, and only Maharaja Suryya Kanta Acharyya from Mymensingh. The writer does not know whether any witnesses from Backerganj and Faridpur were examined, but he knows that no witness from Chittagoing was examined. The official witnesses from Assam, all spoke in favour of improving the prospects of the European officers of the Department. It is strange how the Commission could close its sitting at Dacca without examining independent witnesses able to speak with impartiality and without fear, and who had bestowed thought on

the question of police reform. If Government wants the labours of the Commission to be of any good to the country, it should select two or three respectable and independent witnesses from each district to give evidence before the Commission. Pleaders having a large criminal practice ought also to be selected as witnesses. As for officials, they can submit their evidence to the Commission in the shape of reports.

3. The Barisal Hitaishi [Barisal] of the 12th November says that the proposed transfer of the Barisal Police lines from Police quarters in Barisal town. their present central position to the river bank near the public recreation ground will, in many respects, be an inconvenient arrangement for the town. It will deprive the town of the services of the reserve police in sudden emergencies like fires, &c., though the reserve police is maintained for such occasions.

The Magistrate's proposal to appropriate a portion of the recreation ground for police drill is also objectionable. The ground is the property of the public

and should not be encroached upon by Government.

4. The Pallivasi [Kalna] of the 12th November says that the labours of the Police Commission will be useless if it closes An advice to the Police Commisits work of taking evidence after examining only the big people of the country, who never come into actual contact with the police, and if it does not examine common people who are actually oppressed by the police, and who have to pay it illegal gratification to escape oppression.

The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 14th November writes as follows:— In answering truthfully the first question of the The mufassal and the Calcutta Police Commission, namely, how does the police do its work, what opinion does the public entertain

of the police, and what is the cause of its bad reputation, one is obliged to say that it is impossible to bestow any praise on the police. Everybody must admit that the police is hated by the public because of the detestable manner in which it does its work. We are far from saying that there is not a single good and honest man in the police. But the department as a whole is so bad and corrupt that even educated men of character who enter it lose their good qualities by constant association with older officers.

As for District Superintendents and Superintendents of the Calcutta Police, both these offices are often filled with worthless and incompetent Europeans and Eurasians. If the present method of recruiting District Superintendents is not abolished, it would be better to abolish the posts altogether, for they

HITAVADI, Nov. 14th, 1902.

PRATINIDHI, Nov. 8th, 1902.

BARISAL HITAIBHI, Nov. 12th, 1902.

PALLIVASI, Nov. 12th, 1902.

HITAVADI, Nov. 14th, 1902. now exist simply to supply comfortable berths to worthless relatives of high European officials. Could anything be more shameful than the fact that there are European District Superintendents who cannot write a few lines of good English? European and Eurasian youths, quite ignorant of the state of the country, and of the manners and customs of the people, are at once appointed Assistant Superintendents of Police, and they cannot even conduct cases properly. Such officers have necessarily to remain as toys in the hands of their subordinates. But poor India has, all the same, to pay the cost of their maintenance.

Of course, they acquire some experience when the time comes for their appointment to the charge of districts. But even then, for want of education and intelligence, they fail to be of any use to the country. There could, indeed, be no harm if the posts of District Superintendents were abolished.

Want of education and intelligence among District Superintendents, and the necessity they are under of mixing with District Magistrates and District Judges on equal terms, sometimes compels them to supplement their legitimate income by dishonest means. When visiting the mufassal, they invariably require Sub-Inspectors to procure for them fowls, eggs, goats, milk, fish, &c., and the Sub-Inspectors extort them free of cost from villagers. Such extortions are committed every year in almost every village in Bengal, and the Commission would do well to make an enquiry into the matter.

It is not at all strange that the District Superintendent who, when visiting the mufassal, is handsomely feasted by the Sub-Inspector, should support the latter in whatever he does, or, at least, should connive at his vagaries and

The less said of the Superintendents of the Calcutta Police the better. They are men of small income, but they live in a high style. They cannot, therefore, make both ends meet without having recourse to unfair means. It is, indeed, difficult to say if, with the exception Babu Brajendra Nath Chatterji, there is a single Superintendent of the Calcutta Police who is perfectly honest and immaculate. Under these circumstances, it is impossible for Inspectors and other subordinate officers to remain honest. An Inspector who fails to give his Superintendent a share of his bribes is constantly reported against by that officer, who seeks to get him transferred from his division as quickly as possible.

The Calcutta Police, indeed, would appear to be even more corrupt and worthless than the mufassal police. The Inspectors of the Calcutta Police are mostly Eurasians, who, almost without exception, take bribes and do other dishonest things without the least hesitation. They openly indulge in wrong-doing under the belief that, having regard to the colour of their skin, Government would not punish them or, at any rate, would suppress any scandal

The high-handedness of the police has gone on increasing, because all officers of the Government, from the Viceroy to the District Magistrate, and not unoften even the Sessions Judge, try to screen the police, and never take them to task for their faults. Only the other day the Magistrates of Burdwan and Jessore issued orders prohibiting the Deputy Magistrates under them from at once issuing summons or warrant against an accused police officer, even if only a chaukidar, without first consulting the District Superintendent. The Deputy Magistrates have no alternative but to carry out the orders of their Magistrates. It is certain that in future no Deputy Magistrate in Burdwan or Jessore will ever say anything against the police in his judgments.

6. The Nava Yug [Calcutta] of the 15th November says that though the law prohibits the sale of liquor, ganja, opium and other intoxicating drugs after 9 p.m., they are sold even after that hour in Calcutta. A ganja shop in Munshi Bazar, near Calcutta, continues to serve its customers long after the regulation hour. The police knows all this, but does nothing to stop the practice. Again, though it is illegal to keep guli shops in Calcutta, many such shops still exist in the town. Other prohibited drugs are also sold in Calcutta.

Since what recently appeared in this paper about the toddy shops in Haltu in the 24-Parganas district [Report on Native Papers for week

NAVA YUG,

Nov. 15th, 1902.

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ending 8th November, paragraph 8], the shop-owners are seeking opportunities to wreak their vengeance on a gentleman whom they take to be the informant of this paper. They have also discontinued the retail sale of toddy by day, but are selling it to retail customers at night. They do not now keep all the toddy in their shops, but hide it in other places. The chaukidar fails in his duty by not reporting to the thana the coming of strange people to the toddy shops at night.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The Suhrid [Noakhali] of the 16th November says that Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen, Senior Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali, Two Deputy Magistrates of harasses parties and witnesses beyond description. Noakhali. Immediately after coming to Court he finishes all signing work; then he takes up his newspaper and spends the greater part of the day in reading it. He then takes up the petitions submitted on previous days, and after hearing the depositions of petitioners with the utmost haste, disposes of the petitions in a word or two. By this time it generally strikes four and he, accordingly, postpones the cases fixed for the day to the day following. In this way it often takes him seven or eight days to dispose of a case. Recently, in a case sent up by the Sandwip police, seven or eight witnesses had to dance attendance in Court for six days before their evidence was taken. In consequence of the lax administration of justice by the Senior Deputy Magistrate who is now in charge of the district, riots and

Babu Purna Chandra Mallik, another Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali, is not slow to follow the example of Sasi Babu in harassing parties. Recently one day he told the parties to a case that he would take it up in the early morning the following day. As the time appointed was before the Court hours, the parties had to engage pleaders at more than the usual fees. They all came to Court at the appointed time, and waited for the Deputy Magistrate, but that officer did not turn up Two men went to see what the Deputy Magistrate was doing at home. They found him indulging in idle gossip, but as soon as they caught his eye, he abused and drove them away, telling

them that he would not attend Court before the usual hour.

murders have become very frequent there.

(d)-Education.

8. The Bangavasi Calcutta of the 15th November has the following:

In their letter to the Local Governments on

The Government of India on the Report of the Universities Commission, the Report of the Universities Commission, the

Report of the Universities Commission, the Government of India suggest the endowment of schools and colleges by the rich men of the

country as a means of cheapening education for the poor. But most men in India who have the reputation of being rich are not really in such affluent circumstances as is supposed. What with continually signing their names in subscription books, and what with paying expenses of law suits and keeping up appearances, they are being fast reduced in their circumstances. The few really rich men, again, who have the means to endow public educational institutions care little for education, and it would be idle to expect any help from them. Unity, also, is very little known in this country, and it would be idle to hope that a number of rich men would combine to endow a school or college for the poor. Besides, if the cost of education in other colleges is raised, it will be of little use establishing one or two endowed colleges in a whole Province.

If, however, Government comes forward to lead the way by establishing a few free schools and colleges for the education of the poor, the rich men

may follow suit.

The opinion of the Government of India on the question of the second grade colleges has reassured many people. It is undeniable that, as the Government says, good teachers and proper equipment are absolutely necessary for imparting a good education. But the teaching of even science merely from books and with the help of diagrams chalked out on the black-board, and without the help of any apparatus, has to a great extent been brought into

SUHRID, Nov. 16th, 1902,

> BANGAVASI, Nov. 15th, 1902.

vogue by the system on which the University examinations are held. This method of teaching ought, certainly, to be no longer tolerated. It has, indeed, become highly necessary for the authorities of private colleges to provide their institutions with scientific laboratories. But where is the money to come from? Raising of fees will do no good, for it will reduce the number of pupils and prevent the income of an institution from increasing. It is the Government which should help such private institutions as are doing their best to improve their condition. Government will also do a real service to private colleges, if it can, through its officials, induce rich people to supply the money necessary to equip well-conducted private colleges with scientific apparatus.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Nov. 17th, 1902. 9. The Hindi Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 17th November is glad that
Sir James La Touche has turned his attention to
Sir James La Touche and the improvement of the local vernacular of the
United Provinces. In the last Convocation of the
Allahabad University, His Honour laid great stress
upon a thorough mastery of Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit by the local

upon a thorough mastery of Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit by the local graduates as a preliminary condition to a proper development of the vernacular of the Provinces.

DACCA GAZETTE, Nov. 17th, 1902. 10. The Dacca Gazette [Dacca] of the 17th November says that the The Government of India on Government of India's letter on the report of the Universities Universities Commission is a hopeful one.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

JY071, Nov. 13th, 1902.

11. Referring to the notice which has been issued by the Port Commissioners of Chittagong, and published in a recent The Chittagong Port. issue of the Valcutta Gazette, concerning the scale of charges to be henceforth levied on all vessels using the Chaktai khal in Chittagong, the Jyoti | Chittagong | of the 13th November says that this is the last of a number of attempts made by the Port Commissioners to make an income out of the insignificant trade carried on by poor men by means of the Chaktai khal. The Port Commissioners do not show the least anxiety to improve the condition of the khal. The bridge over it has given way, and the canal itself has almost silted up. The Port rules distinctly lay down the obligation of the Port authorities to construct jetties, landing stages, etc., for the convenience of those who pay Port charges. But the Port Commissioners, whilst leaving the poor tradesmen in the khal to suffer great hardship on account of its extremely bad condition, are anxious to make a profit out of their misery. It is rumoured that the Port requires additional income for the purpose of increasing the salaries of its officers. But one should be loath to give credence to this rumour.

The scale of charges drawn up by the Port Commissioners is so indefinite in many places that it is almost impossible to make out a meaning from it.

The first and second clauses run as follows:—

(1) On all vessels of less than 10 maunds measurement, 3 pies per maund.

(2) For every twenty maunds measurement, 6 pies.

What does the second clause mean? Does it mean that whilst a vessel measuring 9 maunds will have to pay 9 pice, one measuring 20 maunds will have to pay only 2 pice? What will those vessels which will measure between 9 and 20 maunds pay? Again, whilst a distinction has been made between small and large bundles of sungrass, the scale does not define a small bundle and a large bundle. All this is likely to give free scope to oppression by the lower officers of the Port.

12. A Rahara correspondent writes to the Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 14th

HITAVADI, Nov. 14th, 1902.

The South Barrackpore Municipality.

In spite of newspaper agitation, the South
Barrackpore Municipality is neglecting its work
at Rahara. The metalling and lighting of the streets, as well as the cleansing
of the roadsides and scavengering, are all being done in a desultory manner, and
no notice is taken of rate-payers encroaching upon public thoroughfares.

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13. A correspondent of the same paper writes:—

A ferry complaint. The tahsildar of the Sovni ferry-ghat between Khagaria and Parihara in the Monghyr district ill-treats passengers and extorts fares from them at an exorbitant rate, viz., nine pies for each man, six annas for each horse, and eight annas for each

HITAVADI, Nov. 14th, 1902.

(g)-Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

14. A correspondent of the same paper writes:-

carriage.

A railway complaint. On the 20th October last, one of the Assam-Bengal Railway servants employed at the Mukunda-pur station having delayed to open the door of a compartment, which he had locked when an invalid passenger had come out of it, the latter spoke rudely to him. On this the passenger was shown the fist, and on his getting upon the foot-board of the train in motion, was pushed and struck with brickbats. Another railway servant took off his clothes, when the guard opened the door to let him in.

HITAVADI.

15. A correspondent of the same paper writes:-

The East Indian Railway has ruled to pay the Assistant Station Masters not less than Rs. 25 a month; but in the Dinapore district this rule is not much observed. In that district Station Masters have to serve on Rs. 23, and, even after passing the traffic, goods, coaching, and train-passing examinations, do not get more than Rs. 20 or 21 a month, though in the Eastern Bengal State Railway they are allowed an increment of Rs. 7 when they pass these examinations. Besides, they are sent to relieve at inconvenient stations, when they have to incur expenses at the rate of six annas for daily fooding.

HITAVADI.

Obstructed drainage of paddy fields on the Orissa Coast Canal being this year still full of water, the fields which are drained by it are still submerged, nay, water is even flowing into them from the canal. In some fields there are still one or two feet of water at the foot of the paddy plants which are ready for the sickle. Unless the authorities soon take steps to let out the water by Madhya Sarpai or Dandaparulia, much loss will be caused to the raiyats.

Nihar, Nov. 18th, 1902.

(h)—General.

17. While noticing the Census Report for 1901, the Sri Sri Vishnu

The Census Report.

Priya-o Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 12th

November says that from the experience which the
writer has of the taking of census by people made to work begar, he cannot put
any confidence in the report. It is, however, good news that while the census
for 1891 cost seven lakhs of rupees, that for 1901 has cost only three lakhs.

SRI SBI VISHNU-PRIYA-0-ANANDA-BAZAB PATRIKA, Nov. 12th, 1902.

The punishment of the 9th Lancers.

The punishment of the 9th Lancers.

The punishment of the 9th Lancers.

The punishment of the 9th Lancers. A strong disease requires strong treatment. What a monstrous iniquity it is for a whole regiment to combine to shield an offender in their ranks!

SANJIVANI, Nev. 13th, 1902.

III.-LEGISLATION.

The Civil Procedure Code Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code is under consideration, it behoves Government, in view of the ruinously high rates of interest which prevail in this country, to enact that no Court shall decree interest, simple or compound, at a higher rate than 4 per cent. per annum, or allow the total amount of interest to exceed the principal or award a decree for an amount, as principal, which exceeds the actual amount originally lent. Creditors should not be allowed to add compound interest to the original principal and get their bonds renewed

Pallivasi, Nov. 12th, 1902. from time to time. It would be better for debtors to be able to repay their debts before the lapse of two or three years by the sale of a portion of their properties in execution of decrees than to be required to sell the whole of their properties after the lapse of such periods. Debtors should also be given the privilege of repaying their creditors by such instalments as, having regard to the circumstances of each case, may seem equitable.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHABAT MITRA, Nov. 15th, 1902.

The Bharat Mitra [Calcutta] of the 15th November is at a loss to understand what sort of a Musalman is the Nawab of Bhawalpur, who is making preparations to go to The Nawab of Bhawalpur. Somaliland with the view of cutting the throats of his co-religionists and making them slaves. This Nawab Saheb has dismissed a number of Hindu employés in his State to make room for his co-religionists. Perhaps Islam teaches him no better way of displaying religious enthusiasm than by displeasing his Hindu subjects.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI, Nov. 7th, 1902.

The Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 7th November has the following:— The Pioneer is mistaken if it thinks, as it seems The Pioneer and the oppression to think, that the compilation of a catalogue of of natives by Europeans. cases of oppression of Indians by Europeans would serve no useful purpose besides intensifying the existing race antagonism in this country. The publication of any such catalogue would doubtless facilitate the adoption of remedial measures in the future, lead to the prevention of injustice and oppression, serve as a check upon European offenders who might otherwise grow reckless in the belief that they would escape all punishment, and implant in the minds of all classes of the people the idea that even European offenders ought to be made liable to the penalties prescribed in the Penal Code. There is also another aspect of the case which justifies the necessity of circulating such a list. As the fact that injustice is very often done in cases in which Europeans are charged with having oppressed the natives is one which is not known to the English public, of which they are not informed, and which they are slow to believe, the circulating of such a list may have the effect of removing their ignorance and inducing them to take steps to preserve their name untarnished. Unfortunately no complete list of the kind required is in existence, the statements available being extremely meagre and imperfect.

Says the Pioneer:—"As an indictment of the European it cannot be of much force so long as the latter can point to the mutiny outrages, which leave his accumulated misdeeds of a century far in the rear." This is language of anger, or the *Pioneer* must possess sense enough to see that the atrocities committed by an ignorant and fanatical soldiery during a period of mutiny should never form the subject of comparison with the brutal acts which are perpetrated in times of peace. Compared with the acts of cruelty of which the British have been guilty, the outrages of the sepoys seem so many acts of politeness. In comparison with the atrocities which were only the other day committed in Manipur, the oppressions of the sepoys appear only as an exhibition of mercy. You may not place any confidence in the statements of the Indians who are given to exaggeration, but hear what that distinguished historian Lecky says of the doings of Englishmen in Ireland in the eighteenth

"The slaughter of Irishmen was looked upon as literally the slaughter of wild beasts. Not only the men but even the women and children who fell into the hands of the English were deliberately and systematically butchered. Bands of soldiers traversed great tracts of country, slaying every living thing they met."

There would have been no need of compiling a catalogue such as that described above if the object had been to make a collection of cases of oppression of natives by Europeans merely for the purpose of condemning Englishmen. That object would have been gained by publishing a few extracts from the

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works of historians like Lecky, who have described the atrocities committed by Englishmen. Did the sepoy rebels show so much wanton cruelty in their slaughter of men, women, children, and beasts? Here is another extract from the same writer:—

"The slaughter of women as well as of men, of unresisting peasants as well as of armed rebels, was openly avowed by English commanders. The Irish annalists told, with considerable details, how the bands of Pelham and Ormond killed blind and feeble men, women, boys and girls, sick persons, idiots and old people; how in Desmond's country even after all resistance had ceased, soldiers forced men and women into old barns which were set on fire, and if any attempted to escape, they were shot and stabbed; how soldiers were seen to take up infants on the point of their spears, and to whirl them about in their agony; how women were found hanging on trees with their children at their breasts strangled with their mother's hair."

We have no wish to translate the above into Bengali. Was any rebel sepoy guilty of greater cruelty during the sepoy war? If in alluding to that war the *Pioneer* had borne all this in mind, we would have abstained from all reference to these blots on the national reputation of Englishmen. One cannot suppose that the *Pioneer* is unware that crimination leads to recrimination.

We admit and advocate the desirability of publishing a catalogue of cases of oppression of natives by Englishmen, not for the purpose of denouncing the latter, but for the purpose of pointing out the mistake of those people who believe that it is idle to attempt a reform of the system of Indian administration. That English soldiers guilty of outraging the modesty of native women killing the innocent natives without any provocation are let off without any punishment is shown by the result of the trial at Allahabad of Price, that beast in human shape, and of that of O'Hara and many other Europeans like them. A collection of such cases would go a long way to suggest important reforms in the administration of criminal justice. It is to be hoped that the *Pioneer* will take the observations made above in the spirit in which they are offered, and not attribute them to a feeling of sudden resentment evoked by its angry writing.

22. The Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 12th November says that, among other names, that of the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel is by some people mentioned as a possible successor of Sir John Woodhurn in the satrapy of Bengal. Mr. Arundel is a Madras Civilian and

Woodburn in the satrapy of Bengal. Mr. Arundel is a Madras Civilian and has no Bengal experience. Sir Charles Elliott had no Bengal experience and he proved a failure as a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir John Woodburn had not better experience of Bengal when he became its Lieutenant-Governor, but his good heart prevented his administration from becoming a reign of blunders and unnecessary oppressions. The Calcutta Municipal Act is, nevertheless, a blemish of his administration. Mr. Arundel cannot therefore be expected to be a successful Lieutenant-Governor if he is placed on the Bengal gadi.

23. The Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 13th November says:—

We think the Government of India has made How to make the Delhi Darbar a mistake as to the proper style of making festivities throughout India on the occasion of the ensuing Delhi Darbar. Although we do not profess to be acquainted with all English customs, yet we know that on the occasion of his Coronation our King-Emperor feasted the poor of London at his own expense. In India it has ever been the custom for Kings and Emperors to make provision for the enjoyment of their subjects, and for the latter to make themselves merry at their expense on the occasions of their Coronation. But the policy which our Government has laid down is opposed to this time-honoured custom. Men have been employed in all quarters of Calcutta for the purpose of raising subscriptions from the citizens. Almost all these men are non-officials. But where there is an official the amount of money collected has been larger than any collection made by a non-official. The Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah has collected more than two thousand rupees, the largest amount yet subscribed in any quarter. The rich Marwari quarter has subscribed not more than sixteen rupees. It is therefore evident that it is very difficult to raise subscriptions except through

PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Nov. 12th, 1902.

Sanjivani, Nov. 13th, 1902. the direct help of officials. But in spite of the diligent efforts of the collectors, not even forty thousand rupees have as yet been collected out of the estimated lakh. Officials are busy raising subscriptions in all towns and large villages in Bengal. We are confident that, were it not for the fear of officials, it would have been difficult to collect any sum worth naming.

The cost of royal festivities is an unaccustomed burden to the Indian people. Their heart is therefore not free when their hand pays. The Bengal zamindar realises from his tenant extra charges for such things as sradh, marriage, and the like in his house, but the tenant, when paying them, curses

him in his heart of hearts.

Taking into consideration the expenses which will be incurred all over India, the amounts which will be lavishly spent by princes, rajas and zamindars, and the cost which the Government will have to incur on the 1st of January next, it would be no exaggeration to say that the Darbar will cost not less than three or four crores of rupees. The Indian people will gladly bear this enormous expenditure if it can secure a candid and generous behaviour from the Government in their interest. The Indian subjects of His Majesty see that in the politics of the Empire an invidious distinction is always made to their disadvantage between them and His Majesty's subjects in Australia, Canada, Africa, and New Zealand. Whilst the former are not less loyal to His Majesty's throne than the latter, they enjoy far fewer privileges. The British Crown has not more loyal subjects than the Indians, and to reward their loyalty let His Imperial Majesty take the Delhi Darbar as an occasion for proclaiming that within his domains his Indian subjects will henceforth receive equal treatment with his other subjects. If this is done, all India will bless the day on which crores had been spent. But if this is not done, every Indian will raise his voice to curse it as the day on which crores of an impoverished country had been spent, all for nothing, all for a most shadowy pageant. A single word from Lord Curzon's mouth can make or unmake the day, and we anxiously await its utterance.

RANGALAYA, Nov. 15th, 1902. 24. In continuation from its last issue [Report on Native Papers for week ending 15th November, paragraph 33], the Rangalaya [Calcutta] of the 15th November has the following in English:—

To LORD CURZON.

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MY LORD,

You called into requisition your lofty eloquence to persuade the rich all over the world to open their purse-strings for the relief of suffering humanity. Your own State coffers were freely placed at the service of the nation and you minded no loss of revenue owing to remission. It is unquestionable that none of your predecessors felt so much for the famine-stricken poor or did so much for their relief as you have done; and the choicest blessings of God and man

are in store for you.

If you have thus been successful in winning the hearts of those of my countrymen who excel in numbers, you have, I am sorry to observe, utterly failed so to deal with those higher problems of administration with which the more advanced but less numerous sections of my countrymen are concerned; and this is all the more regrettable as you have left few Indian problems untouched. The part you took in strangling local-government in the metropolis of the Indian Empire—hitherto looked upon as the model institution of its kind—has marked you out as a politician of the retrogressive school. Your "corrupt politicians" will ever rankle in the hearts of those who made sacrifices of their time and energy in order to secure success and permanency to a civic experiment of the highest value. You may have had your own reasons for undoing the work of a quarter of a century; but those reasons were not vouchsafed to the public, and the educated Indians will ever remember you as the Destructive Deity of Local Self-Government in India.

My Lord, while, as I have said, you have been indefatigable in your exertions for the *relief* of famine in India, you have been equally indifferent as to its *prevention*. You have not only turned a deaf ear to those who, armed with facts and figures, advocated a policy of lower assessments for the prevention of famine, but instead of examining those facts and figures, you

chose to imperialistically pose yourself and your agreeable councillors as high and unerring authorities, and simply pooh-poohed the proposal. My Lord, in the eyes of the educated Indians and a large number of experienced Anglo-Indian administrators, the facts adduced by Mr. R. C. Dutt and the Hon'ble Rai B. K. Bose, Bahadur, still remain unimpeachable and their logic unassailable. Your much-talked-of Land Revenue Resolution—which by the bye, I am informed, has been by your especial order translated into the various Indian vernaculars and widely circulated—is looked upon by the educated Indians as a monumental jargon of words and jugglery with figures. The result has been the establishment of a Society in England under distinguished auspices, christened "the Indian Famine Union." You and your councillors did not and could not like the movement embodied in the "Union"; and when the "Union" wanted to hold local inquiries in typical villages in India for the purpose of ascertaining the real condition of the Indian agriculturists and finding out means of preventing famines, you and your councillors assumed the

tole of stubborn opponents of the proposal.

My Lord, it is simply inconceivable you do not know what even an illiterate Indian knows, viz., that you must control the export of food grains from India to foreign countries if you really mean to prevent periodical famines. It is also amusing to observe how old exploded theories of free trade are being showered upon us by official apologists and self-styled economists, evidently with a design to silence us,—may be, to lead us away from our premises. Perhaps the truth is that you naturally cannot even entertain the idea of interfering with such exports, as you are one of a people who are tradesmen first and then rulers of countries. But, my Lord, the shop-keeping instincts cannot be with grace grafted on to the exotic of Imperialism. However, speaking candidly I, for one, hoped to see that with your bold ethics, which you have shown to the world on many an occasion, you would gather courage to rise superior to the exigencies of British trade and set yourself up as the saviour of Indian lives against starvation and death. Alas! you should have so disappointed me in my high hope. My Lord, some of the bold spirits among the natives of India have recently betaken themselves to the old Indian system of granaries. Will your Lordship interest yourself in the patriotic movement and lend your powerful help for its success?

25. The same paper makes the following observations in the course of its notice of the Kartik number of the Bengali

"Hyperbole." periodical, the Banga-Darshan, which is edited by

Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore, the famous Bengali poet and essayist:— The article headed "Hyperbole" has simply delighted us, and we shall explain why it has delighted us. It is full of true and sound observations. The thoughts which have so long been expressed in the columns of different newspapers in the shape of hints and innuendoes, suggestions and implications, and artful verbal manipulations are now marshalled in the course of an article with wonderful skill and in language of singular perspicacity. We have said that the system under which India is governed by Englishmen is one under which it is impossible for Hindus and Musalmans to become really loyal subjects of the British Government. This is very ably expounded in the article. We have stated that to play the shop-keeper and the sovereign at one and the same time and equally well is a task which no man can accomplish. The Englishman is a pucca shop-keeper, and in the past conducted the business of a small shop offering for sale muri and murki (fried rice plain as well as sugared over). And after that, when the Indian breeze began to blow over his body, he became the owner of a factory. But a shop-keeper he is. The same Englishman, bearing as he does the heavy burden of India on his shoulders, is now desirous of playing the Emperor. One always feels uneasy in a new and unfamiliar situation. Such is the case with the Englishman also, and this makes us laugh. The writer of the article under notice has said precisely the same thing. The troublesome system of raising subscriptions which is favoured by Englishmen is described by us as a system of "voluntary taxation." The measures which in the interest of public welfare and good government it is the duty of the Sovereign to undertake at the cost of the exchequer, and in regard to which failure on his part would constitute a serious neglect of duty as a ruler, are precisely those the cost of which is openly

RANGALAYA, Nov. 15th, 1902. and triumphantly realised by Englishmen in the shape of subscriptions from wealthy people, title-hunting fools, and social incapables. This is certainly "voluntary taxation;" it is truly a hangman's rope, but made of silk. All this is noticed at some length in the article. We earnestly request our readers to procure a copy of the last number of the Banga-Darshan and read this clever article from the pen of Rabindra Nath, and we ask Government to consider the desirability of taking steps to redress the grievances to which, the Sedition Law notwithstanding, we have ventured to give expression. The fact that Rabindra Nath, a grandson of the famous Dwarka Nath Tagore, has found himself forced to write an article like the one in the Banga-Darshan, shows that the minds of the subject people are perplexed by a great difficulty. If the country is to have good government, the English must beware and proceed with caution.

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BANGAVASI, Nov. 15th, 1902. 26. Referring to Mr. Gupta's intimation to the native editors invited to the Delhi Darbar that in view of the intense cold that will prevail in Delhi at the time of the Darbar, each editor should bring with him a small kerosene stove to heat his camp, the Bangavasi [Calcutta] of the 15th November says that the intimation has come too late, as all the stoves which

November says that the intimation has come too late, as all the stoves which were available in the Calcutta shops have already been purchased for the purposes of the Darbar and none are available now, and will not be available within a short time. Both Messrs. T. Thomson and Company and Leslie and Company failed to supply one to the writer.

Stoves ought to be supplied to the editors by Government.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Oct. 29th, 1902. 27. The Uriya and Navasamvad [Balasore] of the 29th October states that when there was a general cry for rain in the last month in the Balasore district, Mr. Egerton, the popular Collector of that district, took great care to see that every tank, canal or other source of water, conveniently situated in relation to the paddyfields, was properly utilised by the agriculturists concerned. Though the Collector was relieved of his cares and anxieties in consequence of a timely shower of rain, the agriculturists of the Balasore district failed not to appreciate the sympathetic heart of their Collector, for whose happiness and longevity they always pray to God.

Nov. 6th, 1902.

28. Referring to the proposed appointment of a certain number of Sub-Inspectors of Schools by the District Board of Balasore, the Samvad Vahika [Balasore] of the 6th November suggests that one of the appointments should be given to a competent head-master of a minor school and another to a competent teacher of a higher English school, and that all the nominees should be natives of the Balasore district.

UTRALDIPIRA, Nov. 8th, 1902. 29. The Utkaldipika [Cuttack] of the 8th November regrets to find that the educated natives of Orissa have contracted a peculiar aversion to police service, and that this is proved by the very small number of candidates that go up to the Police examination. The editor hopes that this aversion will disappear in time.

UTKALDIPIKA

30. The same paper commends the example of the Rajshahi Agricultural Association to all Associations in different parts of India, and exhorts them to join together to spend a decent sum on the education of local artists and manufacturers by deputing them to the Delhi Darbar and other important exhibitions, where they will find ample specimens and models for their own improvement and instruction.

UTRALDIPIRA.

31. Referring to the dispute between the donors and subscribers to the Sambalpur Town Hall Fund regarding the position of the Sambalpur Town Hall. should be situated in a place whither the general public can repair with the least trouble.

Referring to the discussion that is going on in the columns of the Prajabandhu, a Uriya weekly, printed and The question of a pension to published in Ganjam, regarding the maintenance Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Sing Samanta.

of Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Sing Samanta, the astronomer of Khandpara and the learned

savant of the Orissa Gurjats, the same paper points out that it is a delicate subject and should not, out of respect to the Mahamahopadhyaya, form the subject of public discussion. If he is really in want, and if his jaigir is not sufficient, it is the duty of the Raja of Khandpara, to whom he is related, to look after that. If the Raja fails in his duty, the friends and sympathisers of the Mahamahopadhyaya may help him privately without dragging him into the unpleasant arena of public correspondence.

33. The same paper admires the patience and pluck of the editor of the Phanix, a bi-weekly paper, printed and published The Bombay Government's decision in the Phanix case. at Karachi, who, though punished by the lower

Court and the Chief Court of Sindh on charges of defamation, was released, on appeal, by the Bombay Government on political grounds. The fair decision and the good sense of the Bombay Government have commended themselves to the public.

34. The same paper regrets to find that the resolution of the Bengal Government on the last Salt Administration Report The Bengal Government's Salt

makes no reference to the manufacture of salt in Administration Report. Orissa, though it was promised in the resolution of

the past year that the matter was under consideration.

The same paper exhorts the public to bestir themselves in the interests of the National Congress and to take early measures An appeal on behalf of the

to represent their interests in its proposed sitting at Ahmedabad during the ensuing Christ-

mas, especially as an Industrial Exhibition is to take place in connection therewith. The writer argues that it is the duty of the Indians to see that the National Congress becomes a successful institution.

The same paper again complains of the high-handed and interfering proceedings of the Cuttack Police, who did not The Cuttack Police. allow play of music before the images of the goddess Kali after 10 P.M., while they passed in procession through the public streets. This gave great offence to the general Hindu public, among whom deep discontent is said to have arisen. The paper surmises that it is a bad policy to interfere with the rights and privileges of the people when they do no way clash with the interests of good government. In Calcutta, which is a more populous town than Cuttack, music or display of fire-works in public streets at night is not prohibited. Why should such things be forbidden in Cuttack, unless it be, adds the writer, due to the ambition of the local police, that wants to establish a reign of terror commensurate with the mild and submissive character of the Cuttack populace?

37. The editor of the same paper contradicted the statement of Mr. Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Divi-Relations between Bengalis and sion, that there exists ill-feeling between the Uriyas

Uriyas in Orissa. and Bengalis, and finding that a simple denial of an important fact, advanced by so high an authority, was not at all convincing, condescends to explain himself more fully. The editor admits that 40 or 45 years ago a keen contest took place between the Uriyas and Bengalis regarding the maintenance of the Uriya language and literature, and an acrimonious correspondence, resulting therefrom, was the cause of much bitterness in the ranks of both the societies. The resolution of Mr. Ravenshaw, a late Commissioner of Orissa, to side with the Uriyas closed the discussion for a long time to come. Since then the relation between Uriya pupils and Bengali teachers, Uriya tenants and Bengali zamindars, Uriya servants and Bengali masters, has been what should be desirable. The Uriyas and Bengalis have learnt to love and esteem each other. In fact, they are more united in heart than any two other races of India. Even the most superficial observer cannot fail to notice that an ekdil sentiment prevails in their midst. Though confident in his views, the editor has the charity to admit that Mr. Gupta may be, or is partly right, though he has not the wisdom to see that he has been drifting

UTRALDIPIKA, Nov. 8th, 1902.

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from the position of a friend to that of a foe by making the unsupported statements that the Uriyas are carrying away more money from Bengal than the Bengalis are carrying away from Orissa, and that Mr. Gupta was duped by reckless but cunning place-hunters, who, being unable to provide themselves and their relations by fair means, failed not to mislead the Commissioner by plausible stories. The editor lays it down as an established fact that even Lieutenant-Governors were more misled than the Commissioner, as they appointed Uriya Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors on a system of nomination, thinking very little of the claims of competent domiciled Bengalis, and thereby gives broad hints to his intelligent readers to infer that he, the leader of the domiciled Bengalis, has changed sides, has found it more convenient or useful to further the interests of his party by making common cause with the alien Bengalis against the Uriyas, has indirectly confessed that there is a certain amount of ill-feeling at least in the minds of the domiciled Bengalis, and has thereby supported the contention of Mr. Gupta, notwithstanding his protestations to the contrary. The editor has, however, the good sense to agree with Mr. Gupta in his pronouncement of true remedies for such a state of things, and in their full but judicious application.

UTKALDIPIKA, Nov 14th, 1902. 38. The same paper draws the attention of the local authorities to the unprotected condition of the Ganesh ghat on the left bank of the Kathjuri river, where three gentlemen have in quick succession met with serious accidents while walking on that bank of the river.

Bengali Translator's Office, The 22nd November, 1902. CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.